

the same as the shepherd's dog, or, at least, it has more relation to him than to any other dog. We might, therefore, be inclined to imagine, that the epithet *laconicus*, left uninterpreted by Aristotle, was only given to this dog because he was found in Laconia, a province of Greece; and of which Lacedæmon was the capital; but if we attentively consider the origin of this *laconic* dog we shall perceive that the breed was not confined to the country of Laconia, alone but must have been found in every country where there were foxes; and this induces me to presume, that the epithet *laconicus* might possibly have been used by Aristotle in a moral sense, to express the brevity and acuteness of his voice, because he did not bark like other dogs, but had a shorter and shriller note, like that of the fox. Now our shepherd's dog is that to which we can justly apply this term of *laconic*, for of all dogs his voice is the sharpest and most rarely employed. Besides, the characters which Aristotle gives to his *laconic* dog agree with those of the shepherd's dog, and perfectly persuade me they are the same.

The genus of cruel and rapacious animals is one of the most numerous and most diversified; evils here, as in other cases, seem to be produced